

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to the claim of priority. The Specification on page 1 line 4 has been amended as disclosed above. In addition, the Examiner has objected to references to the claims in the specification. The specification has been amended to remove these references.

The Examiner has also objected to the abstract. An amended abstract is enclosed as attachment "A" wherein the legal phraseology has been removed.

The Examiner has objected to the claims. The claims have been amended to remove reference numerals and also the terms "characterized by the features" and also the term "characterized in that". In particular, claims 11, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended to overcome these objections.

In particular, the Examiner has objected to claim 11, wherein the ring frame is particularly objected to. The term

"ring frame" has been changed to "tubular frame". In addition, the phrasing of claims 14 and 17 have been amended and the dependency of claim 18 has been changed so that it now depends from claim 15.

The Examiner has rejected claim 11, under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph. Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice. New claim 20 was written to include the elements of claim 11 and to overcome the above rejection. Early allowance of new claim 20 is respectfully requested. In addition, dependent claims 12-19 were stated as conditionally allowable by the Examiner. Claims 12-19 have been amended to overcome the above objections and are now ultimately dependent on new claim 20. Furthermore, new independent claim 21 includes many of the features and elements of claim 20 but it differs in that for example, it does not recite that the filter material is "star shaped". The applicant believes that this new claim 21 is also patentable. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the remaining claims.

Claims 12-21 remain in the application wherein claims 12-19 have been amended and new claims 20 and 21 have been added. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the remaining claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Attachment A

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to the U.S.P.T.O. to Patent Examiner J.M. Greene at Group No. 1724, to 1-703-872-9310 on September 2, 2003.

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